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EXHIBIT #10
DATE Jan 18th 2011
RE 130

HB 130

For the Committee's Consideration, some studies of relevance.
Respectfully submitted
Scott Crichton, Executive Director

Adam J. Berinsky, Nancy Burns, and Michael W. Traugott, *Who Votes By Mail? A Dynamic Model of the Individual-Level Consequences of Voting-By-Mail Systems*, 65 PUBLIC OPINION Q. 178 (2001).

VBM increases turnout by providing a way for the resource-rich to remain a part of the electorate, rather than to draw the resource-poor into the electorate. While VBM increases turnout by 6 percentage points, it does so by mobilizing older voters, those who are well-educated, and those with substantial amounts of campaign interest. VBM works by retaining political participants over a series of elections.

Adam J. Berinsky, *The Perverse Consequences of Electoral Reform in the United States*, 33 AM. POL. RES. 471 (2005).

Reforms designed to make voting easier (VBM, early voting, liberal absentee voting, Internet voting) actually increases the socioeconomic bias of the electorate, rather than mobilizing unengaged voters. The increase in turnout that may result from these reforms is due to the increased turnout from politically engaged voters. Institutional changes alone will not change the composition of the electorate.

Michael J. Hanmer and Michael W. Traugott, *The Impact of Voting by Mail on Voter Behavior*, 32 AM. POL. RES. 375 (2004).

The retention of voters across elections in Oregon is high and increased with the move to voting by mail (VBM). **VBM does not favor either political party in terms of retention of voters across elections; each party retained its supporters.** Mobilization of voters increased substantially with the shift to VBM, especially for Republicans who were able to mobilize more voters who sat out in previous elections than were the Democrats.

Jeffrey A. Karp and Susan A. Banducci, *GOING POSTAL: How All-Mail Elections Influence Turnout*, 22 POL. BEHAV. 223 (2000).

VBM elections produce higher turnout, however, the most significant increase occurs in low stimulus elections, such as local elections. **The increase in turnout is not uniform across demographic groups, but rather mobilizes those already predisposed to vote (those with higher socioeconomic status) who find it difficult to get to the polls.**